

Docket No.: PF-0169-2 CON

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
- b) a polypeptide comprising a naturally occurring ~~polypeptide comprising an amino acid~~ sequence at least 90% identical to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
- c) a biologically active fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and
- d) an immunogenic fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

2. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide of claim 1 comprising an amino acid sequence ~~having a sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:1.

3. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 1.

4. (Original) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 3.

5. (Original) A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 4.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

Docket No.: PF-0169-2 CON

- a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and
- b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

8. (Original) An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 1.

9. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
- b) a naturally occurring polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence at least 90% identical to a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
- c) a polynucleotide having a sequence complementary to a polynucleotide of a),
- d) a polynucleotide having a sequence complementary to a polynucleotide of b) and
- e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).

10. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 9.

11. (Original) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 9, the method comprising:

- a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and
- b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

Docket No.: PF-0169-2 CON

12. (Original) A method of claim 11, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

13. (Original) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 9, the method comprising:

- a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and
- b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

14. (Original) A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

15. (Currently Amended) A composition of claim 14, wherein the polypeptide comprises ~~has~~ an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
- b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

18.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
- b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

Docket No.: PF-0169-2 CON

21.-24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness in altering expression of a target polynucleotide, wherein said target polynucleotide comprises a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising the target polynucleotide to a compound, under conditions suitable for the expression of the target polynucleotide,
- b) detecting altered expression of the target polynucleotide, and
- c) comparing the expression of the target polynucleotide in the presence of varying amounts of the compound and in the absence of the compound.

26. (Original) A method for assessing toxicity of a test compound, said method comprising:

- a) treating a biological sample containing nucleic acids with the test compound;
- b) hybridizing the nucleic acids of the treated biological sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 9 under conditions whereby a specific hybridization complex is formed between said probe and a target polynucleotide in the biological sample, said target polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 9 or fragment thereof;
- c) quantifying the amount of hybridization complex; and
- d) comparing the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample with the amount of hybridization complex in an untreated biological sample, wherein a difference in the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample is indicative of toxicity of the test compound.

27.-42. (Canceled)

43. (Original) A microarray wherein at least one element of the microarray is a polynucleotide of claim 10.

Docket No.: PF-0169-2 CON

44. (Canceled)

45. (Original) An array comprising different nucleotide molecules affixed in distinct physical locations on a solid substrate, wherein at least one of said nucleotide molecules comprises a first oligonucleotide or polynucleotide sequence specifically hybridizable with at least 30 contiguous nucleotides of a target polynucleotide, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of claim 9.

46.-51. (Canceled)